



LARIMER COUNTY
FAIR AND PRCA RODEO

OPEN CLASS FAIR BOOK

 **THE RANCH**
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Instructions on How to Enter Open Class Exhibits and Overall Information

1. **Fair Book:** The Fair Book contains all the entry guidelines, classes and descriptions. Access the 2026 Larimer County Fair Book online at: <https://www.treventscomplex.com/events/larimer-county-fair/4-h-and-open-class>. Each department is listed separately. Information follows regarding this specific department. Printed Fair Books may be requested from the Competitions Coordinator at 970-619-4034, rumseyta@co.larimer.co.us.
2. **Schedule:** Read the Open Class Schedule at the end of this document.
3. **General Information:** Read the general information and rules and follow the specific information for each departments. **Photography exhibitors should be sure to understand and follow the rules for size and mounting of photos before arriving at check-in.**
4. **Exhibitors** do not need to be Larimer County residents to enter.
5. **Online Entry:** Complete the Open Class Registration online through Fair Entry (not 4-H online) <http://lcfopenclass.fairentry.com>
If you entered last year, you are in the Fair Entry System as an exhibitor and you just need to add classes. If you are a new exhibitor, please sign up and follow the prompts to set you up as an exhibitor. Then add your classes. Everyone should make sure to hit the submit button and receive email confirmation of your entries.
6. **Entry:** Pre-Registration Entry is recommended in all departments through the on-line Fair Entry system beginning **Tuesday, March 15th through Wednesday, July 22nd at 11:50 pm**. Written entry forms can be requested through the Competitions Coordinator at 970-619-4034, rumseyta@co.larimer.co.us. Printed entries can be emailed, delivered or mailed to the Larimer County Fair Office, 5280 Arena Circle, Ste #100, Loveland, CO 80538. Entry Office opens at 8:30 a.m. and closes at 4:30 p.m. Postmarks, faxes, or email pre-registration will be accepted only if posted on or before July 23rd at 4:30 pm.
7. **Late Registration:** Late Entries Taken at Department Check-In, Tuesday, July 28th. Horticulture late entries will be accepted on Wednesday, July 29th from 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.
8. **Check-In:** Park in the McKee Building parking lot or Lot A or B then enter the Northeast doors in Pedersen Toyota Center -South at The Ranch. Open Class exhibits (except Horticulture) must be received **Tuesday, July 28th between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** Horticulture exhibits check-in Wednesday, July 29th between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. At check-in, arrive in time to receive your exhibitor identification tag(s). Review the information on the I.D. tag and assign one tag to each exhibit. Take exhibit(s) to the respective departments.
9. **Check-Out:** Please return to The Ranch Pedersen Toyota Center-South to pick up your exhibits on **Wednesday, August 5th between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.** Collect any awards won. **If you are unable to pick up your exhibits that evening, please have someone else do it for you.** Otherwise your projects are available for pickup in the Event office during normal business hours. Removal of any exhibit before the designated time requires written approval from the Superintendent or Exhibitor Coordinator. Violation of this rule shall cause the exhibitor to forfeit any awards due to him or her.
10. **Judging:** Viewing of judging is open to the public. You are welcome to listen and learn from the judges.

11. All products exhibited must have been prepared since August 1, 2025, except for quilts or photography. Exhibits can be entered only once in the Larimer County Fair.
12. Any article may be tested to the satisfaction of the judges. All articles and garments entered must be clean.
13. Children's age is determined as of December 31, 2025.
14. Only one entry will be accepted in each class from each exhibitor except Arts, Photography, and Spinning and Weaving. No Champion or Reserve Champion will be awarded if the exhibit is not worthy.
15. Special awards will be chosen at the discretion of the judge(s) in each department and coordinated through the Superintendents.
16. All exhibits must remain on exhibit for the entire Fair, regardless of whether an award is given. An open class exhibitor schedule included at the end of this Fair Book.
17. **Special Awards:** Exhibitors may collect special awards for department winners. Collection of the awards is as follows:
Wednesday, August 5th 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Otherwise at the Ranch Events office Thursday, August 6th, 8:30 am – 4:30 p.m. and Friday, August 7th 8:30 a.m. – noon. Special awards not collected will be forfeited.
No Exceptions.
18. **Premiums/Money:** Premiums will be given for class placement in youth designated classes. No money is awarded for general/adult classes.
19. **The use of marijuana or CBD in any display, food item, or exhibit is prohibited and shall be rejected.**
20. Classes may be combined or divided at the discretion of the superintendents. If there are 3 or more items in a miscellaneous or "Any Other" class, a new class may be made.
21. **Responsibility:** The Ranch staff, the Larimer County Fair Board and Volunteers will use reasonable diligence to ensure safety of exhibits after their arrival and placement. Under no circumstance will the parties listed be responsible for any loss or damage done to, occasioned by, or arising from any articles on exhibit. The exhibitors shall indemnify The Ranch, Larimer County Fair Board and volunteers of all legal or other proceedings in regard thereto. The entry of any exhibits on the fairgrounds by any and all exhibitors shall signify his or her agreement to abide by this rule.

Open Class Horticulture Division

(Garden Flowers, Vegetables, Fruit and Herbs)

Co-Superintendents –Karen Collins & Mitzi Davis

Extension Contact – Alison O'Connor

Open Class Horticulture

Garden Flowers Rules

Key dates and times:

Entry for Garden Flower exhibits: Wednesday, July 29th, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Judging time for Garden Flower exhibits: Wednesday, July 29th, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Check-out for Garden Flower exhibits: Wednesday, August 5, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

1. All flowers used in entries, including fresh flower arrangements, must be grown by the exhibitor. Store-bought flowers are prohibited. All arrangements must be fresh not dried.

2. Exhibits must be checked in with the superintendent and in place between 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on July 29th.

3. Exhibits must remain on display through Tuesday, August 4. If not removed by 6:00 p.m., August 5, they will be disposed of by Fair Management.

4. Judging will start promptly at **10:30 a.m.**, Wednesday, July 29th, and is open to the public to hear judges' comments.

5. At check-in time on July 29th, your department's exhibitor's number will be given to you. At that time, each exhibitor will verify his or her own individual class entry tags and place them on their exhibits. A list of these entries should be given to the Superintendent for checking.

6. Please write variety of the flower, if known, on the entry tag. If entering more than one variety in a single class, the name of each variety is required to be written on the tag.

7. Unworthy exhibits and exhibits which do not follow the class description will be disqualified. Exhibits will be displayed and presented to the Judge by Superintendents and/or assistants in charge of this department.

8. Classes may be combined or divided at the discretion of the Superintendents. If there are 3 or more exhibits in an "any other" class, a new class may be made.

9. Exhibitors may keep flowers in good condition during the Fair by replacing flowers when necessary and maintaining water levels.

10. Entering exhibits in the proper class is the exhibitor's responsibility. If exhibitors have questions regarding plant identification, it is encouraged that you contact the Extension Office prior to entry.

11. If a class specifies one variety, all blooms, stems, or spikes must be one color.

12. If a class requires more than one bloom, stem, or spike, but does not specify "one variety", they may be all one color or a mixture of colors.

13. An exhibitor may not exhibit more than **one** entry of the same variety in the same class. If you enter more than one variety, variety must be listed on the entry tag. (See Rule 6 above.)
14. The use of marijuana or CBD in any display, food item, or exhibit is prohibited and shall be rejected. The exhibitor shall be referred to law enforcement.
15. In cut flower classes, foliage above the waterline should remain on the stem but removed if in the water. Multiple stems show best if cut at the same length.
16. All flowers must be grown by the exhibitor for at least 2 months; houseplants must be in the possession of the exhibitor for 3 months.
17. All 4-H members and other children are encouraged to enter flowers in the Open Class Garden Flower and Horticulture Show. Garden Flower classes 400 - 450 are specific for children and youth (ages 5 – 18). Youth are encouraged to enter in any other classes, as per their exhibits.
18. Awards/Champions – The Outstanding Flower Exhibit (Judge’s Choice) will be picked by the Judge from any class, 110 – 480. The Outstanding Children’s Exhibit (Judge’s Choice) will be selected from any class, 400-420; the Outstanding Youth Exhibit (Judge’s Choice) will be selected from any class, 430-450. Outstanding Flower Arrangement will be selected from classes 320-340, 460 and 470. Champions (County Flower Champion, County Flower Reserve Champion, Champion Houseplant, and Reserve Champion Houseplant) will be determined by points: First, 4 points; second, 3 points; and third, 2 points. In the event of a tie based on the points awarded, the award will be divided equally among winners.
- 19. Payment of Awards: Exhibitors may collect special awards. See Open Class Division General Rules and Regulations for schedule. Special awards not collected before noon Friday, August 7, will be forfeited. No Exceptions.**

Open Class Horticulture Garden Flowers

Garden flowers will be judged based on uniformity with foliage and flowers free from insect damage and/or disease, as well as petal color and overall flower freshness.

Class

- 110.** Hybrid tea rose, 1, 8" stem or longer
120. Any other rose, 1 variety, 3 stems, specify variety (if known)
130. Gladiola, 1, single spike
140. Zinnias, 3 stems, any variety, flowers must be the same size (i.e., all giant or pompom)
150. Phlox, 1, single stem
160. Marigold, 3 stems, any variety
170. Petunias, 3 stems (can have multiple flowers on the stem), any flower size, one variety
180. Calendulas, 3 stems, one variety
190. Snapdragons, 2 spikes, any variety
200. Shasta Daisies, 3 stems
210. Cosmos, 3 stems, any color
220. Sunflower, 3 stems, one variety, can have multiple flowers per stem
230. Rudbeckia (black-eyed Susan), 3 stems
240. Echinacea (coneflower), 3 stems
250. Yarrow, 3 stems, one variety

- 260.** Dahlias, 1 stem, flower size < 4" in diameter
- 270.** Dahlias, 1 stem, flower size 4-6" in diameter
- 280.** Dahlias, 1 stem, flower size > 6" in diameter
- 290.** Daylily, 2 stems, one variety
- 300.** Any other flower, 3 stems

Floral Arrangements

- 320.** Miniature fresh flower arrangement in any media, measuring no larger than 5" x 5"
- 330.** Fresh flower arrangement or bouquet, in water or floral foam
- 340.** Foraged arrangement, in any media, materials must be collected fresh by exhibitor from any suitable outdoor area, measuring no larger than 14" tall (this arrangement may include foliage, flowers, and/or weeds)

Houseplants

- 350.** Houseplants, any size container, in possession of exhibitor for at least 3 months
- 360.** Houseplants, succulents or cactus only, any size container, in possession of exhibitor for at least 3 months
- 370.** Any houseplant in bloom (not orchid), any size container, in possession of exhibitor for at least 3 months
- 380.** Orchid, in possession of exhibitor for at least 3 months
- 390.** Fairy, dish, or terrarium garden display, with living plant material (figurines okay)

Children

Ages 5 – 12

- 400.** Child miniature fresh flower arrangement in any media, measuring no larger than 5" x 5"
- 410.** Child fairy, dish, or terrarium garden display, with living plant material (figurines okay)
- 420.** Child fresh flower arrangement or bouquet, in water or floral foam

Youth

Ages 13 Through 18

- 430.** Youth miniature fresh flower arrangement in any media, measuring no larger than 5" x 5"
- 440.** Youth fairy, dish, or terrarium garden display, with living plant material (figurines okay)
- 450.** Youth fresh flower arrangement or bouquet, in water or floral foam

Celebrating American Roots – Patriotic Categories

Entries in the following classes must depict a strong red, white, and blue theme for America's 250th anniversary. Props (i.e. flags) may be used, but at least 80% of the entry must be in fresh floral materials. All floral materials must be grown and/or foraged by the exhibitor and cannot be store-bought.

- 460.** Patriotic miniature fresh flower arrangement in any media, measuring no larger than 5" x 5"
- 470.** Patriotic fresh flower arrangement or bouquet in water or floral foam
- 480.** 3 patriotic stems, any flower variety (can be mixed flower types) – 1 stem red, 1 stem white, and 1 stem blue/purple

**Open Class Horticulture
Vegetables, Fruit, and Herbs Rules**

Key dates and times:

Entry for Horticulture exhibits: Wednesday, July 29th, 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Judging time for Horticulture exhibits: Wednesday, July 29th, 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Check-out for Horticulture exhibits: Wednesday, August 5th, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- 1. All entries must be grown by the exhibitor. Store-bought vegetables, fruit and herbs are prohibited.**
2. Exhibits must be checked in with the superintendent and in place between 7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. on July 29th.
3. Judging will start promptly at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29th, and is open to the public to hear judges' comments.
4. At check-in time on July 29th, your Department's exhibitor's number will be given to you. At that time, each exhibitor will verify their own individual class entry tags and place them on their exhibits. A list of these entries should be given to the Superintendent for checking.
5. An exhibitor may not exhibit more than **one** entry of the same variety in the same class. If you enter more than one variety, variety must be listed on the entry tag.
6. Vegetable Critter Art (classes 510 and 710) – Made from any parts of vegetables or fruits, including stems, leaves, and seeds. Not to exceed 12" x 12" x 12". Fastening with glue or tape is allowed. Judged on creativity. Display must be stable enough to be easily moved.
7. Unworthy exhibits and exhibits which do not follow the class description will be disqualified. Exhibits will be displayed and presented to the Judge by Superintendents and/or assistants in charge of this department.
8. Exhibits must remain on display through Tuesday, August 4th. If not removed by 6:00 p.m., August 5th they will be disposed of by Fair Management.
9. Classes may be combined or divided at the discretion of the Superintendents. If there are 3 or more exhibits in an "any other" class, a new class may be made.
10. The use of marijuana or CBD in any display, food item, or exhibit is prohibited and shall be rejected. The exhibitor shall be referred to law enforcement.
11. Hot peppers will be the final judged exhibits. Tasting these peppers has resulted in residual heat in the mouth, making it difficult to taste/sample the entries from other classes.
12. All 4-H members and other children are encouraged to enter vegetables in the Open Class Garden Flower and Horticulture Show. Horticulture classes 510 - 540 are specific for children and youth (ages 5 – 18). Youth are encouraged to enter in any other classes, as per their exhibits.
13. Champion and Reserve Champion County Horticulture Exhibit will be determined by adding points from classes 550-810 and 820-830 and 960. Champion and Reserve Champion Herb will be determined by adding points from classes 840-950. (Points from herb classes will not count towards Horticulture Champion.) First, 4

points; second, 3 points; and third, 2 points. In the event of a tie based on the points awarded, the award will be divided equally among winners.

14. Payment of Awards: Exhibitors may collect special awards. See Open Class Division General Rules and Regulations for schedule. Special awards not collected before noon Friday, August 8, will be forfeited. No Exceptions.

Open Class Horticulture Vegetables

Vegetables will be judged for "table use." Uniformity in size, shape and color are important. Please include a variety name (if known) on entry tag.

Class

(Classes for youth only; ages 5 – 18)

- 510.** Youth Vegetable Critter Art – grown by exhibitor, made from vegetables or fruits, including stems, leaves and seeds. Cannot exceed 12" in any dimension. Fastening with glue or tape is allowed. Display must be stable enough to be easily moved.
- 520.** Youth beans, 6 pods, with stems not more than 1" in length, any variety
- 530.** Youth squash, 1 summer-type or winter-type (including pumpkin or gourd), any size
- 540.** Youth tomatoes, 5 cherry

Classes for all exhibitors

- 550.** Beans, 6 pods, with stems not more than 1" in length, any variety
- 560.** Beets, 2 red table (topped to ½")
- 570.** Broccoli, 1 head
- 580.** Cabbage, 1 head, any variety
- 590.** Carrots, 3 (topped to 1")
- 600.** Cucumbers, 3 pickling (4" to 5" in length)
- 610.** Cucumbers, 3 slicing
- 620.** Eggplant, 2
- 630.** Lettuce, 2 heads
- 640.** Kale, any variety, 1 bunch, with 3 leaves bundled together
- 650.** Any other greens; if leaves are under 4 inches in length, place 10 leaves in a baggies; if leaves are greater than 4 inches, create 1 bunch with 3 leaves bundled together
- 660.** Onions, 3 green, bunched, tops may be trimmed
- 670.** Onions, 2 round – or globe-type, white or yellow
- 680.** Onions, 2 round – or globe-type, red
- 690.** Sweet Peppers, bell type, 2
- 700.** Sweet Peppers, tapered type, 2
- 710.** Adult Vegetable Critter Art – grown by exhibitor, made from vegetables or fruits, including the stems, leaves and seeds. Cannot exceed 12" in any dimension. Fastening with glue or tape is allowed. Display must be stable enough to be easily moved.
- 720.** Potatoes, 3, any variety
- 730.** Pumpkin, 1, any variety, any size
- 740.** Rhubarb, 3 stalks, pulled from plant, leaf cut to 1"
- 750.** Squash, 3 summer-type or zucchini, any variety
- 760.** Squash, Biggest Zucchini, by weight, stem trimmed to 1"
- 770.** Winter Squash, 1, any variety (no pumpkins -enter in class 730)

- 780.** Tomatoes, 5 cherry
- 790.** Tomatoes, 2 green (unripe)
- 800.** Tomatoes, 2 ripe
- 810.** Any other vegetables, 3

Open Class Horticulture Fruit

Class

- 820.** Apples, 3, any variety
- 830.** Any other fruit: 3 (e.g., plums, peaches, pears); Small fruits, ½ cup or 4 ounces (e.g. currants, raspberries, gooseberries)

Open Class Horticulture Herbs

Class

- 840.** Basil, 3 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (with leaves, no flowers, in container of water)
- 850.** Chives, 6 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (no flowers, in container of water)
- 860.** Dill, seed heads only, 2 (displayed on a paper plate)
- 870.** Garlic, 2 bulbs
- 880.** Lavender, with flowers, 3 stems, trimmed to a maximum of 10" (in a container of water)
- 890.** Mint, 3 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (with leaves, in container of water)
- 900.** Oregano, 3 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (with leaves, in container of water)
- 910.** Parsley, 3 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (with leaves, in container of water)
- 920.** Rosemary, 3 stems, trimmed to a maximum of 10" (with leaves, in container of water)
- 930.** Sage, 3 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (with leaves, in container of water)
- 940.** Any other herb, 3 stems, trimmed to maximum of 10" (with leaves, in container of water)
- 950.** "A Nod to Simon and Garfunkel" – 2 stems, trimmed to a maximum of 10", each of parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme, in a container of water

Celebrating American Roots – "America the Beautiful"

To celebrate Colorado's 150th anniversary and the historical tie to "America the Beautiful" being written by Katharine Lee Bates on Pikes Peak in 1893, create a display to depict your favorite lyrics from the song using vegetables, fruit, and/or herbs. Props (i.e. flags) may be used, but at least 80% of the entry must be comprised of vegetables, fruit, and/or herbs. All materials must be grown and/or foraged by the exhibitor and cannot be store-bought.

- 960.** "America the Beautiful" display using vegetables, fruits, and/or herbs depicting your favorite lyrics from the song (e.g. Fruited Plains, Purple Mountain Majesty). Get creative but keep it non-political and family friendly. Display must be stable enough to be easily moved.

Open Class Horticulture Hot Peppers

Class

- 970.** Peppers, Chili – Anaheim type, 2 (limit 2 varieties per exhibitor)
 - 980.** Peppers, Chili – Jalapeno type, 2 (limit 2 varieties per exhibitor)
 - 990.** Peppers, Chili - Large, hot, 2 (limit 2 varieties per exhibitor)
 - 1000.** Peppers, Chili - Small, hot, 2 (limit 2 varieties per exhibitor)
 - 1010.** Hottest Pepper, any size, 1 (limit 2 varieties per exhibitor)
- The hottest pepper may be chosen from any hot pepper class 970-1000, or the hottest pepper class 1010, at the judge's discretion.**

Special Awards

These special awards are made possible by the following sponsors:

In Memory of Dr. Tony Koski
Champion Open Horticulture Exhibit
Larimer County Master Gardeners

County Houseplant Champion
Berthoud Plant Co.

Reserve Champion Open Horticulture Exhibit
Artisan You

County Houseplant Reserve Champion
Plantorium

County Flower Champion
Fossil Creek Nursery

County Outstanding Flower Arrangement
Plantorium

County Flower Reserve Champion
Palmer Flowers

Special Awards for Children and Youth
Wendy's

Outstanding Flower Exhibit (Judge's Choice)
Biggest Zucchini Exhibit
Fort Collins Nursery

Judges Choice – Outstanding Flower Exhibit
Artisan You

Champion Herb Division
Dick Christensen

Judges Choice – Outstanding Children's Exhibit
Artisan You

Reserve Champion Herb Division
Artisan You

Judges Choice – Outstanding Youth Exhibit
Fossil Creek Nursery

Christopher Karr Memorial
Hottest Pepper Exhibit
Larimer County Master Gardeners

Vegetable Critter Art Exhibitor – Adult
Fossil Creek Nursery

Vegetable Critter Art Exhibitor – Youth
Davis Family

2026 Larimer County Fair Schedule of Events for Open Class

SCHEDULE as of February 15, 2026

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22

11:59 p.m.

OPEN CLASS EXHIBIT ENTRY/PRE-REGISTRATION FORM SUBMISSION DEADLINE-

SATURDAY, JULY 25

9:30 a.m.

LARIMER COUNTY FAIR PARADE

Downtown Loveland

MONDAY, JULY 27

4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Open Class Exhibits Set Up – Superintendents only

South Pedersen Toyota Center

TUESDAY, JULY 28

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Open Class Exhibits - Check-In

South Pedersen Toyota Center

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Open Class Horticulture (Garden Flowers & Vegetables, Fruit & Herbs) Check-In

South Pedersen Toyota Center

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Open Class Arts, Baked Products, Creative Crafts, Knitting, Machine Work, Needlework, Preserved Food Products (& Honey), Quilting & Spinning & Weaving *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Open Class Garden Flowers & Floral Arrangements Judging *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Open Class Horticulture Vegetables, Fruits & Herbs Judging *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

THURSDAY, JULY 30

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Building open to Superintendents for display *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

FRIDAY, JULY 31

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2

7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Free Pancake Breakfast *Party Tent outside Indoor Arena*

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

MONDAY, AUGUST 3

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Open Class Exhibit Halls - Open to the Public *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Open Class Check-Out *South Pedersen Toyota Center*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6

8:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Open Class Unclaimed Items & Awards pick-up *Event Office Pedersen Toyota Center*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 7

8:30 p.m. – 12:00 p.m. Open Class Unclaimed Items & Awards pick-up *Event Office Pedersen Toyota Center*